

WHOLE NO. 10,806.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 1866.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE PACIFIC.

The Naval Victory of the Chileans.

Details and Official Reports of the Affair at Abtao.

Official Account by the Allied Commander.

Report of Commander Juan Williams, the Hero of the Covadonga Affair.

Rejoicings in Lima Over the Victory.

IMPROVING THE DEFENCES OF CALLAO.

THE GOLD MINE EXCITEMENT.

Gen. Mosquera, President of Colombia, Not at His Post.

The Steamer Henry Chesney, from Aspinwall, March 28, arrived at this port last evening.

We are indebted to the purser for forwarding our Panama and Lima correspondence and full list of papers.

The following is the special list of the Henry Chesney:

Bacon & Russell	\$12,180	Wells, Fargo & Co.	\$12,500
Dunham, Sherman & Co.	10,000	Order	10,000
Henry Chesney	10,000	Admiral & Co.	275
Engle Kelly & Co.	2,000	Wells & Co.	10,000
Wells & Co.	10,000	Total	\$78,587

THE NAVAL BATTLE.

Our Lima Correspondence.

Lima, March 14, 1866.

THE CHILEAN-SPANISH FLEET.

Chile still remains the centre of public interest on this coast.

The steamer of the 11th Inst. from Valparaiso brings confirmation of the reported victory of the allied squadron over the Spanish fleet at Abtao.

Fifty-five guns in the hands of Peruvians and Chileans proved more than a match for ninety-four guns in the hands of Spain.

The old Castilian proverb that "men sometimes go out for wool and come back home" has had another illustration.

After a contest of two hours, in which fifteen hundred shots were exchanged, at the distance of one thousand to fifteen hundred yards, the Spanish vessels retired defeated.

Peru is jubilant over the success, and, judging from the tone of her press, counts it only the precursor of future victories which the combined valor of the South American republics is to win from Spanish inefficiency.

And yet to the impartial observer the affair at Abtao (not Abtao) on the 7th of February, wears a somewhat less encouraging aspect.

The fact is, the success of the allies was due in large part to luck—an element very rarely named as a foundation for future calculations.

It appears that the two Spanish frigates, by a strategic circumspection of approach, not only made an unexpected descent upon the allies, but actually caught them at a great disadvantage.

Their two finest vessels, the frigate *Aparturo* and the corvette *América*, were unable to move from their anchorage on account of repairs which were being made to their machinery.Only the corvette *Unión* and the frigate *Covadonga* were in a condition to maneuver freely.So far all was favorable to the Spaniards, yet they committed the mistake of placing themselves at a distance which prevented their own shot from reaching the enemy with effect, but which did not prevent the efficiency of the superior guns of the *América* and *Unión*.Had they moved in and engaged the allies at short range, it is not improbable that they would have captured or destroyed both the *Aparturo* and *América*.

As it was, they retired without gaining any advantage, having suffered more serious injuries than the allies, who they left in possession of the field.

The killed and wounded of the Spanish vessels are estimated at forty, while those of the allies are estimated at two killed and one or two wounded.

The latter, therefore, claim the victory—a victory, however, due not to superior courage or skill, but to superiority of equipment and to the fortunate circumstance that, through ignorance of the true condition of affairs, the enemy failed to press his advantage.

This first naval contest will prove instructive to both parties, warning the one never to be off guard, and the other to never be stronger force. But as to who is to win the future victory remains to be seen.

On the 17th of February the iron-clad *Manzanillo* and the *Blanca* left Valparaiso for the north. It is not improbable that it was their purpose to engage the *Unión*, yet this they may not find at all.The hazards of rapid currents and an intricate navigation are at all points there. What if the formidable *Manzanillo* should be grounded in some treacherous passage, or should return to find that the enemy had not only eluded her search, but had meantime made an attack on the blockading fleet at Valparaiso? Stranger events have occurred. The actual result of this last expedition is awaited here with intense interest.The probability that the allies will not use on the defensive for the present is increased by the fact that they are expecting the speedy arrival of the new iron-clad the *Blanca* and the *Unión*. With the aid of these they ought to be able to service the *Manzanillo* against any force which again may have in the Pacific.

The more sanguine here predict that upon the arrival of these vessels the Spanish fleet will be obliged to raise the blockade of Valparaiso and retire from the coast to await iron-clad reinforcements from home.

DETAILS OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

The affair at Abtao—for it can hardly be called a battle—was conducted by the allies in the most spirited manner, against nearly double the weight of metal of their own vessels.

The engagement lasted about two hours, and some five hundred shots were exchanged, when the two Spanish frigates gave up and retreated, when they cleared off in retreat to return to Valparaiso to report their defeat and get refitted.

The allied squadron consisted of:—

The Peruvian frigate *Aparturo*, thirty guns, Commander Villar; Peruvian corvette *América*, twelve guns, Commander Ferreyro; Peruvian corvette *Unión*, (new), twelve guns, Commander Grau; Chilean schooner *Covadonga*, three guns, Commander Thompson; in all amounting to fifty guns.

The Spanish vessels were:—

Frigate *Blanca*, thirty-six guns, Commander Topete; Frigate *Unión*, thirty-six guns, in all amounting to fifty guns.

The Spanish vessels were commanded by Juan Bautista Topete.

The allies were anchored for general overhaul and coaling in one of the channels near Callao, called *Chilipe*, near an island called *Abtao*.The frigate *Aparturo* had part of her machinery on shore, and the two corvettes were also undergoing repairs; so that of the four only the *Covadonga* was in a condition to change her position if needed. On the 10th of February, about ten

In the morning, it was reported that two frigates were

nearing, supposed to be Spanish. Every measure was

immediately taken to place the vessels in a state of de-

fense, and most energetically this was carried out. By

half-past two in the afternoon the two ships of the ene-

my were seen making head for the situation of the

allies, and in half an hour more were within fifteen hun-

dred meters of their position. The allies were the first

to fire, and were energetically replied to. For about

two hours a most earnest cannonading was kept up, the

fire of the allies being very regular and powerful

throughout. The *Blanca* was rendered almost motion-

less, and, unable to continue the fight, she dropped

behind the island referred to, and endeavored to do

damage by throwing shells over the island upon the

allies. Her cabin was knocked to pieces; and while we

have no means of knowing actually the amount of killed

and wounded, the number must have been very heavy,

judging from the dead bodies afterwards seen floating

about. The other vessel suffered badly also, and both

soon cleared out. Most unfortunately, as we have said,

the machinery of the *Aparturo* was on shore, and the

Americans and Union could not leave their anchorage;

otherwise these ships would most certainly have been

taken to the enemy and left to the allies. Their loss

amounts to a trifling only two men were killed in the

action, and the damage to the vessels is scarcely worth

mentioning. It has been recorded at some time that

Captain Williams, who gallantly captured the *Covadonga*,with his ship the *Emmeralda* had no share in this action,

being stationed in another part of the channel, from

which he could not arrive in time to render any as-

sistance.

This second success of the war fills the spirit of the

country with enthusiasm, and Spain will find she has no

mean enemy to contend with in her raid on these coasts.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

I append the official reports of Commander Juan Wil-

liams and others:—

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER OF THE PERUVIAN DIVISION.

ON BOARD OF THE FREGATE *APARTURO*, Feb. 10, 1866.

The allied squadron under my orders, consisting of the

frigate *Aparturo*, the corvette *América*, and the cor-vette *Unión*, the corvette *América*, and the cor-

for then the enemy began his retreat, as there is reason

to think, with considerable loss. I reckon that during

the engagement more than a thousand shots must have

been fired. For our part the *Covadonga* discharged fifty

shots and forty-three shells.

The only damage I have suffered is a ball between wind

and water in front of the stern boiler, which did not

penetrate, as being almost spent.

In the corvette *Unión* there have been two men, who

served one of the guns, and the other was killed by

only one shot, and as being almost spent.

Captain Lynch remained on board during the engage-

ment, and it is my duty to observe that his services

were of great value to the allies, and that he was

noticed. As regards the officers and crew, I can only say

that they have behaved like brave men.

God preserve your Excellency.

MANUEL L. THOMPSON.

THANKS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE COMMANDER

OF THE ALLIED SQUADRON.

The Chilean Minister of Marine has sent the following

despatch to the allied naval commander:—

Santiago, Feb. 23, 1866.

His Excellency the Minister of Marine has received

with great satisfaction your important despatch of the

16th Inst., No. 187, together with the accompanying

documentary relative to the capture of the corvette *Unión*and the frigate *Blanca* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and thecorvette *América* in the harbor of Abtao, and thecapture of the frigate *Unión* and the corvette *América*

in the harbor of Abtao, and the capture of the frigate

Unión and the corvette *América* in the harbor ofAbtao, and the capture of the frigate *Unión* and the